LIBRA CONGRESS SEP

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
The Outlook	281
The Feminism of Jane Austen. By Bertha Brewster	282
Suffrage At Home and Abroad	283
Latest Suffrage Map of North America	283
To the Very End. By Henry W. Nevinson	284
Give the Mother her Due. By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.	285
United Suffragists' Campaign	286
Comparison of Punishments	287
Privileged Police	287
Sarah Gamps of To-Day	287

DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

It now appears that the Representation of the People Bill will not, as we hoped in our last issue, be sent up to the House of Lords before Parliament rises for the summer recess. The work of the Boundary Commissioners will not be completed in time for this course to be taken; also, the Corn Production Bill has been considered by the Government to be a measure of greater urgency than the compilation of a democratic register. Needless to say, we do not take this view ourselves. Nor do we think that any reason yet given explains why the Committee stage of the Reform Bill is not to be proceeded with beyond Clause 26 before the House of Commons reassembles in the autumn. The easy majority secured by the Government against Mr. Wardle's amendment to the minimum wage clause of the Corn Production Bill, and secured by the mere threat of an appeal to the country, shows that the feeling against a general election on the present stale register is sincere and widespread. But it does not by any means prove that no general election will be forced before the new register can be compiled. We have no wish to be pessimistic. We honestly believe that the Representation of the People Bill will be placed on the statute book this side of Christmas. But we exhort our readers not to assume that it is there already, but rather to be prepared for eventualities, and to hold themselves ready for a vigorous Suffrage campaign should one become necessary in the interests of our Bill.

Bankrupt but not Insolvent

Those who attended the Bankruptcy Court on July 10 and July 24, when Miss Evelyn Sharp again appeared for her "public examination" (in each case adjourned—finally till October 23 next) must have been struck with the absurdity as well as the injustice of the whole proceedings. While real debtors—persons who, generally through personal extravagance or fraudulent dealings, are unable to pay more than a small percentage of their debts—are discharged by the Court and allowed to make a fresh start in life, a woman who has defrauded no one and owes no one a penny, but declines to pay her taxes to the Crown so long as the Crown shuts her outside the Constitution, is refused her discharge and made to submit to all the petty tyrannies of officialism, as well as the real disablement as a professional woman of being a bankrupt. The matter is the more outrageous since the Official Receiver, on July 24, informed Mr. Registrar Mellor that he had, "with no assistance from Miss Sharp," obtained possession of enough money to pay the "debt." If this is true, why has Miss Sharp's case been again adjourned—this time for three months? It is nearly three months since her furniture, even her typewriter, which is necessary to her work, was removed from her flat. All this time, her private correspondence has passed through the hands of the Official Receiver, and will presumably continue to do so until October 23. If she had cheated her dressmaker and tradesmen by paying them only five shillings in the pound, she could walk out of the Bankruptcy Court with the blessing of every official within it!

Acquittal of Miss Roberts

No humane person will feel anything but intense relief at the acquittal of Miss Alice Roberts, the domestic servant of sixteen who was charged at Glamorgan Assizes on July 20 with the murder of a farm servant. The reason alleged for her action was that he had tried to assault her improperly on more than one occasion. The counsel for the defence urged that the accused had done what any woman was entitled to do, for the law said that she was entitled to defend her honour; and both Mr. Justice Sankey and the jury concurred in this view. Though we do not regard a girl's "honour" as injured through her being made the unwilling victim of a criminal assault, we are glad that the law recognises her right to act in self-defence when she is attacked in such a way; for, after following similar cases for many years (as our Comparison of Punishments columns have shown, month by month), we have come reluctantly to the conclusion that the law in its administration does not afford her any other kind of effective protection. Men who commit these assaults—frequently upon little girls incapable of using a gun in self-defence—are continually given negligible sentences, or fined, or even bound over, while theft and other offences against property are punished with penal servitude. We do not advocate long sentences for anybody, only the readjustment of our sense of values as regards property and the human person. The Glamorgan case forces us to ask if sexual crime is viewed in its right proportion only when the victim's desperation drives her to the extreme course adopted by Miss Roberts. If so, a terrible premium is placed upon the dangerous principle of "taking the law into one's own hands."

The Future of "Feminist Energy"

"What will happen to feminist energy now that woman suffrage is won?" asks "Sardonyx" in the *New Statesman*. We point out elsewhere that, until the Representation of the People Bill is on the Statute Book, woman suffrage is not won; as to "feminist energy," if by that is meant the energy of those who have spent the best years of their life in fighting for an elemental right, we can assure "Sardonyx" that suffragists have never looked upon the suffrage campaign as anything but a means to an end—and an unnecessarily tedious means. Their difficulty in future will be, not to find work for their idle hands to do, but to make a choice between the innumerable kinds of public service they will at last be free to perform. "Sardonyx" speaks curiously of "paid officials" and "honorary leaders habituated to command," who will be thrown out of a job, as it were, by the realisation of their hopes. Does he (or she) seriously think that women belonging to a movement, whose history has been one long record of sacrifice and endurance, can be lightly dismissed as a band of mercenaries?

The Progress of Women

Two notable events mark the rapid progress women are now making towards equality of opportunity with men. Miss Maude Royden, the well-known Suffragist, who has already preached to overflowing congregations at the City Temple, is to take the service there on alternate Sunday evenings from the middle of September until Christmas. We look upon this appointment as a real gain to the cause of freedom in its widest sense; for Miss Royden's name is associated not only with what is known as the Woman's Movement, but also with a movement for greater liberty and tolerance within the churches. The other event to which we have alluded is the Parliamentary candidature of Lieutenant Catherine MacAdams, of the Canadian A.M.C., now stationed at Orpington, in Kent. The Province of Alberta, which already has one woman member of Parliament, is now soliciting the suffrages of its soldiers and military nurses in England and France for two Parliamentary representatives, to be elected on August 16; and Miss MacAdams is standing as the only woman side by side with twenty men. Needless to say, we warmly wish her luck in her plucky adventure. Incidentally, the emphasis laid by some newspapers on her personal beauty suggest to us a reason for the theory so often put forward by Anti-Suffragist M.P.'s and others (but not particularly substantiated by the general appearance of our municipal councillors), that women voters will invariably elect the handsomest man candidate.

Child Labour

The employment of children upon various kinds of labour is a serious and growing evil. Like other evils, it springs from the war, and is part of the general shortage of workers. But we must not forget that it is a waste of life, and that to waste the future life of a country is worse than wasting its future capital. The Surrey Education Committee, we are told, have "released" 960 children below the regulation age, with a view to agricultural work. About two-thirds of them, it is true, were approaching the age; but what of the remaining 335? We notice that the word "released" is now habitually used for men who are taken from their work and drafted into the army, and similarly used for children taken from school and set to work. So at the beginning of the war, middle-aged citizens who had never even turned a hay-crop in their lives, used to write with enthusiasm about the joy of children out working in the fields instead of sitting in school. If only these idyllic gentlemen had tried what field-work means!

Increase of Half-Timers

Perhaps an even more terrible symptom of the times is the great increase of half-timers in the North of England. Near Manchester, in twelve districts only where registers have been kept, the number of children working half-time has increased during the war from 13,044 to 17,094. Education Committees readily grant this exemption for what they call "beneficial employment," especially for labour in the homes. It may be doubted whether half-time is not really worse than total exemption, for it usually implies double work outside school, beside the interruption of the ordinary education. We are glad to see that a deputation from the Committee on Wage-earning Children has appealed to Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, calling upon him to check both these evils. "Mr. Fisher," we read, "gave a sympathetic reply, and assured them that the points they had raised were receiving his earnest consideration." But more than sympathy and consideration is required. A conference held at the Ministry of Labour under the chairmanship of Mr. Bray (London Advisory Committee on Juvenile Employment), after a controversy described as "heated," carried a resolution in favour of totally prohibiting the employment of children for wages. They also decided to ask the War Office to demobilise teachers immediately on conclusion of peace.

Items of Interest

An additional £5, included in his Estimates by the First Commissioner of H.M. Office of Works, Sir Alfred Mond, is for the removal of the grille from the Ladies' Gallery in the House of Commons. This, if approved, will be one step towards the recognition of women's equal right with men to listen to their joint representatives in the Commons, and will finally lead, we hope, to the throwing open of all the galleries to men and women alike.

According to a statement by Lord Peel, the number of women placed on the land by the Women's Section of the National Service Department up to the end of June was 5,243, and the number of women called up by the War Office for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps amounted to 1,997 clerks and 1,200 domestic workers.

Miss Alice Low, former organizing secretary of the Edinburgh District of the N.U.W.S.S., has been appointed area controller at one of the bases in France for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

For the first time women, three in number, have been appointed to serve upon the Executive of the New South Wales Liberal Association.

The Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral have appointed a woman organist and a woman verger.

Two additional women Sanitary Inspectors were appointed during July by the Camberwell Borough Council. They were Mrs. Ethel May Hart and Miss Frances O'Riordan.

At the Economy Exhibition, Mrs. C. S. Peel, Director of Women's Service for the Ministry of Food, suggested as a solution of the servant problem after the war that domestic service should be made a skilled industry, with regulated wages, hours (not to exceed eight a day), and uniform dress. She proposed that they should be called "house assistants."

In the proposed new scheme issued by the Ministry of Pensions, a totally disabled staff nurse will receive £100 a year as compared with £40 at present, with special grants for treatment. A nurse disabled from unfitness, not through war service, will receive a gratuity up to £200, as against the present three months' pay.

Official statistics of retail food prices given in the *Labour Gazette* show that on an average there has been an increase of 104 per cent., compared with July, 1914.

President Wilson ordered the release of the sixteen militant Suffragists, who were sentenced in July to 60 days' imprisonment for "disorderly conduct" outside White House. According to a later cablegram the women have refused the pardons.

THE FEMINISM OF JANE AUSTEN

By Bertha Brewster

On July 19th, 1817, occurred the death of Jane Austen, to many of us one of the greatest of English humorists, at the age of forty-one.

It is usual to speak of her writing as feminine. We frankly confess we do not know what exactly is meant by the term in her case. Her characters live and move in a nicely-ordered world, untroubled by disaster, unmoved by strong emotions; their joys and sorrows are on the smallest possible scale;—and so far the adjective in its usual acceptance is applicable. But with what strength and decision does she describe them, with what freedom from sentiment does she deal with them, and with what robust common sense does she look at life!

Like all humorists, this admirable quality was hers in no small measure. By it she tests the actions of mankind; and by it they are judged. Good sense and good taste, indeed, seem in her eyes to have been the principal virtues, and offences against them were more hardly dealt with than many others, usually considered worse. This is most clearly shown in her attitude towards Lydia Bennet's elopement with Wickham. The offence against morality involved in her living with the young man a fortnight before marriage—a serious crime at that period we should have thought—is no more shocking to the author than the offence against taste and prudence. She shows, in fact, extraordinary tolerance.

> "But can you think (asks Mrs. Gardiner) that Lydia is so lost to everything but love of him, as to consent to live with him on any other terms than marriage?"
>
> "It does seem, and it is most shocking, indeed," replied Elizabeth, with tears in her eyes, "that a sister's sense of decency and virtue in such a point should admit of doubt. But really, I know not what to say. Perhaps I am not doing her justice."

Could anything be more moderate? Mr. Bennet's disapproval of the erring couple's conduct was expressed with equal temperance:

> "Into *one* house in this neighbourhood they shall never have admittance. I will not encourage the imprudence of either by receiving them at Longbourne."

The invariably sensible Elizabeth even began to regret that her first shock on hearing the news had led her to

> make Mr. Darcy acquainted with their fears for her sister; for since her marriage would so shortly give the proper termination to the elopement, they might hope to conceal its unfavourable beginning to all those who were not immediately on the spot.

We do not think the most tolerant and well-balanced of modern fathers and sisters could have shown less perturbation.

The conduct of the Bertrams, who were guilty of nothing worse than amateur theatricals, meets with far severer censure. We find it difficult to realise in what lay the extreme impropriety of their behaviour, but without doubt every canon of good taste was violated. Edmund listens "with alarm" to the proposal of acting in public—a very restricted public, too!—by "a set of gentlemen and ladies, who have all the disadvantages of education and decorum to struggle through." The absent Sir Thomas' "strict sense of decorum" is repeatedly urged as a reason for putting a stop to the objectionable project, and when at last "victory over Edmund's discretion" has been won, and a rehearsal is in full swing, the sudden and unlooked-for appearance of Sir Thomas from Antigua causes "a moment of absolute horror." And the consequences of this breach of decorum were far more serious than those of Lydia's, for while she meets with no worse fate than a rather unsatisfactory marriage, and is even allowed to retain "all the claims to reputation which her marriage had given her," Maria Bertram leaves her husband a few months after marriage with the more attractive Henry Crawford, and Julia at the same time elopes to Scotland with Mr. Yates, both these distressing incidents being the distinct result of the improper pastime of acting. It is plain that the sin against the laws of conventional good breeding was a more serious matter in Miss Austen's eyes than the sin against the laws of conventional morality. We may admit her independence of thought: we cannot imagine her capable of equal independence of action.

Her commonsense is shown very clearly by her attitude towards her women. We do not find that she expects a very different standard of conduct from men and women. Extreme propriety of conduct and demeanour is demanded from men as well as women, and nowhere are helplessness and imbecility held up for our admiration as womanly qualities. Silliness does not cease to be silliness when it appears in a woman, and foolish young women are treated with the same gentle malice as foolish young men. Reason and judgment are as attractive in a woman as in a man.

> "Men of sense," says Mr. Knightley to Emma, "whatever you may choose to say, do not want silly wives."

And Mr. Bennet, himself married to one of the silliest of women, speaks feelingly to Elizabeth of the grief of being unable to respect one's partner in life.

Nowhere do we find respect for men as men expressed, and Mr. Collins is as ridiculous in the eyes of his wife as Mrs. Bennet is in the eyes of her husband.

> When Mr. Collins said anything of which his wife might reasonably be ashamed, which certainly was not seldom, she (Elizabeth) involuntarily turned her eye on Charlotte. Once or twice she discerned a faint blush; but in general Gharlotte wisely did not hear.

Miss Austen may or may not be feminine: womanly, in the "Anti" sense of the word, she certainly is not.

She was an observer rather than a creator, and an unusually unprejudiced observer. Indeed, we can think of no more impartial historian. Never does she take advantage of her position as author to make her characters act and speak as, in fact, they never did. The heroine is never made to utter Miss Austen's own sentiments against her will. We are not annoyed by the unwanted expression of Miss Austen's personal opinions, nor by irrelevant references to current events. She is the personification of detachment, and we love her for it. Mr. Collins and Miss Bates, Mr. Woodhouse and Mrs. Jennings are people of no particular period. They have always existed, and will continue to exist, and we no more want to have our attention distracted from them by the unnecessary mention of wars and revolutions, or movements of any kind, than we want to have a bomb dropped on us while we are enjoying an evening at the theatre.

> "What a newspaper I could write," wrote Stevenson to a friend, "if I know how to omit!"

And what novels Jane Austen has written because this invaluable knowledge was hers!

It is as much owing to this magnificent detachment of hers as to her never-failing sense of humour that we cannot claim her as a fellow-suffragist with as much conviction as we can other famous women writers. For detachment and a sense of humour are the reformer's bitterest enemies, and one who can never shake them off will probably be with us in spirit, but will most likely shrink from being with us in body.

We cannot picture Miss Austen addressing, far less interrupting, a public meeting; indeed, we fear she might consider it an unpardonable breach of decorum. But we can very well imagine her making fun of Mr. Arnold Ward's speeches.

SUFFRAGE—AT HOME AND ABROAD

Progress of Real Democracy all over the World

OVERSEAS SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE IN 1918

It is proposed to hold the Third Biennial Conference of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union in London, in June, 1918. The first steps have been taken by the Executive Committee of the B.D.W.S.U. in circularising the leaders of all women's societies in the Dominions Overseas with a request to send in suggestions and resolutions, and to set about making arrangements for their representation at the Conference. Eighty-four of the principal Overseas newspapers have been notified at the same time. Owing to the uncertainty of the mails at the present time, it is necessary to take these steps at this early date. Last year, it will be remembered, United Suffragists co-operated with the B.D.W.S.U. in trying to make the Conference a success. In writing to inform us of next year's arrangements, Miss Harriet C. Newcomb (Hon. Sec. of the B.D.W.S.U., c.o. the International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W.) goes on to say:—

> May I take this opportunity of recalling the invaluable help you gave us in 1916. The recent rapid extension of the franchise in Canada should greatly increase the practical value of the Conference in 1918. If, as now seems certain, Great Britain gives the suffrage to women, South Africa will surely follow. We may open our Conference with a Jubilate on the victory which has untied the hands of the women of the Empire.

We hope, indeed, that Great Britain will at last be in a position, by that time, to range herself with the democracies of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

LABOUR AND SUFFRAGE IN U.S.A.

The campaign in America for the passage of a Federal Suffrage Amendment through Congress has been considerably strengthened by President Wilson's reception of a Suffrage deputation to urge the claims of such a measure. In his answer, he promised to reconsider his former attitude, which was one of hostility to action by Congress and preference for action by individual States.

Another evidence of the growing support for Federal Suffrage was given by the resolution adopted by the Women's Trade Union League at their Sixth Biennial Convention, held at Kansas, in June last. It runs as follows:—

> WHEREAS, There are over 8,000,000 women working in industry in the United States, and in only eleven of the forty-eight States have the women the full right of suffrage, and in eight other States Presidential suffrage, and
>
> WHEREAS, The war is professedly being fought to vindicate the "right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in the Government," and
>
> WHEREAS, The working women who will feel most heavily the burdens of the war are being called upon to share whatever effort and sacrifice is necessary—not as citizens of any one State, but as citizens of the United States of America, and
>
> WHEREAS, European countries, England, France, and Russia, are enfranchising their women in war time, therefore be it
>
> RESOLVED, That we urge President Wilson to use his power as President and as head of the Democratic Party, to assist in passing the amendment to the United States Constitution enfranchising women as a war measure, and that we appeal to the Congress of the United States to pass this amendment during the present special session of Congress.

MISS RANKIN'S MAIDEN SPEECH IN CONGRESS

Miss Jeannette Rankin, the only woman representative in the United States Congress, has made her maiden speech on a subject that should interest us in this country at the present time. She moved an amendment to the Administration's Food Bill, proposing that "the Secretary of Agriculture shall so far as is practicable engage the services of women for the work herein provided for." Her speech was so convincing that the amendment was adopted unanimously. All parties in the House joined in the ovation that she received both when she rose and when she sat down.

WOMEN IN RUSSIA

Under the Act issued by the Provisional Government to reorganize the judicial system in Russia, women as well as men, who possess the necessary qualifications, are eligible as magistrates and judges.

Women in Great Britain, who are already considering how they can best make use of their votes when they have won them, should be interested to learn from *Jus Suffragii* that in Russia, where women also expect to be enfranchised in the immediate future, signs already exist of increasing power among women and future achievement. In Benbei an Association of Women has been formed, whose object is the protection of motherhood, and in Tambov, a Union of women for the purpose of educating the new voters. The payment of women teachers has already been raised.

IN FINLAND

Among the measures that are put down for debate during the present session of the Finnish Diet, a certain number have been promoted by women. These include Bills dealing with sick insurance, marriage laws, penal reform, admission of women to public offices on equal terms with men, the conditions of domestic servants, and of women in industry and the railway service, the care of idiots, maintenance of destitute children, and legislation in connection with prostitution and venereal disease.

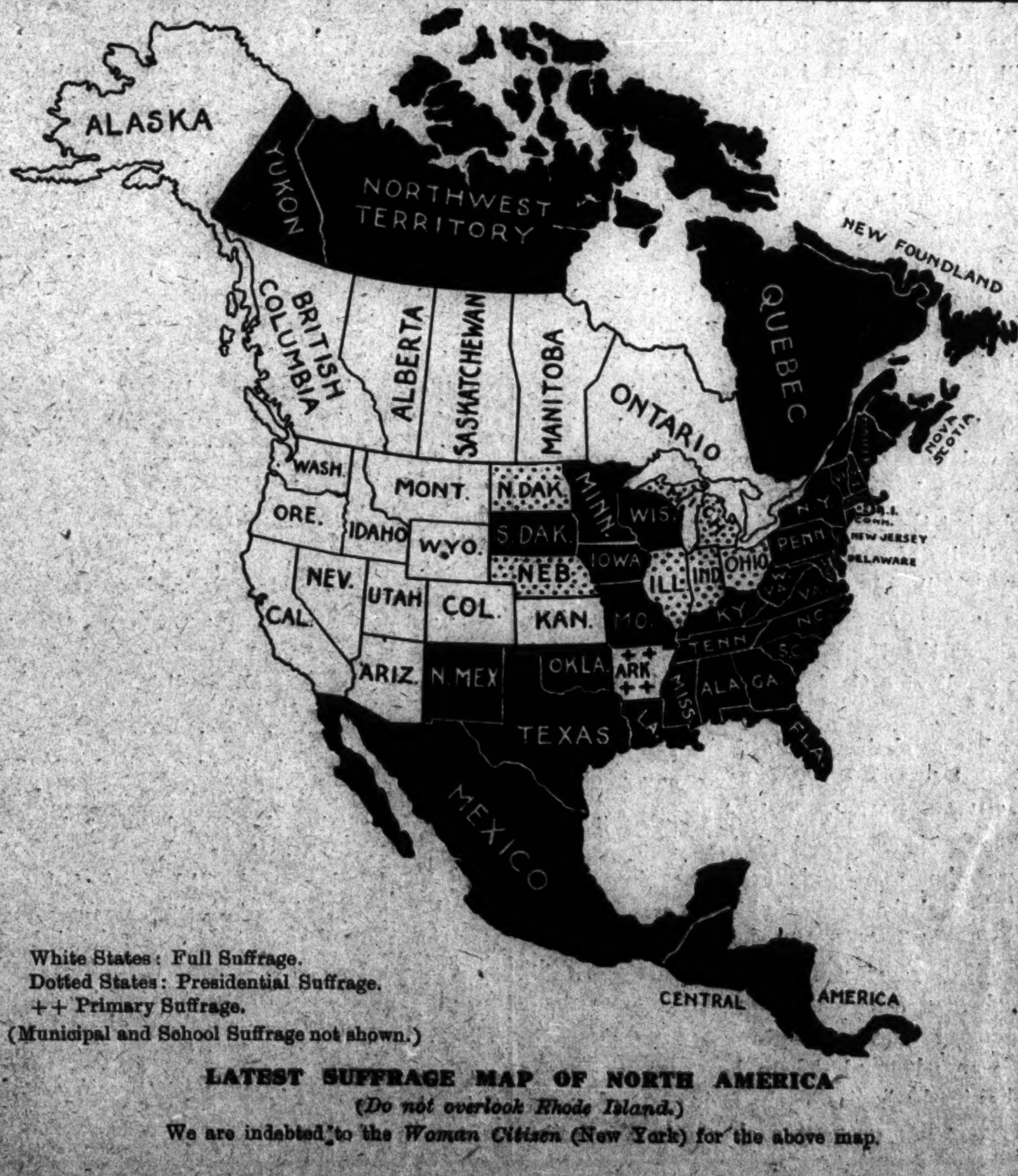
Important as all these questions are, they are subordinated at the moment to the political situation in Finland brought about by the Russian Revolution, and to the food problem, both of which naturally absorb the attention of Finnish women equally with that of Finnish men.

IN ITALY

The *Times* correspondent at Rome is responsible for the statement that the Parliamentary Committee there, which has been discussing the Bill for improving the legal status of women, has added a clause to the measure providing that women may exercise

> all liberal professions and be eligible for all posts of public employment, except the magistracy, the Legislature, and appointments connected with the military defence of the State.

A strong group of Members of all parties have resolved, in the event of the Government proceeding further with the Bill, to present a motion to include the above amendment.



White States: Full Suffrage.
Dotted States: Presidential Suffrage.
++ Primary Suffrage.
(Municipal and School Suffrage not shown.)

LATEST SUFFRAGE MAP OF NORTH AMERICA

(Do not overlook Rhode Island.)

We are indebted to the *Woman Citizen* (New York) for the above map.

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AUGUST, 1917.

TO THE VERY END

No one doubts that our cause is won. So far as principle and opinion go, it is won already. From the very first, so many years past, we have never questioned its final victory. To have questioned that would have been to question the very existence of justice and freedom as among the motives and objects and desires of mankind. If our cause were not destined to prevail, we should have been thrown back upon helpless despair of all future progress or amelioration in the world's history, and we should have been driven to conclude that a power of evil controlled man and the universe. But it is not in Suffragists to despair. They have always believed that justice, like truth, will ultimately win its way, and, urged by a passionate desire for the fulfilment of their faith, they have marched unhesitatingly onward through good and evil years. With unshaken confidence in the power of justice and the beneficence of freedom, they will continue that march to the very end.

There are many who believe the end has come, that final victory has been reached, not only in principle but in fact, and that now we may rest on our arms, or even lay them aside. The belief is mistaken but natural. It is natural to suppose that when our House of Commons has accepted, not merely the principle, but the legislative detail of a measure by a majority of 330, the measure is safe in actual fact as well as in principle. All the more might one suppose so when the measure especially concerns the House of Commons itself, and is the result of a Conference in which all British parties were represented, and to which the Speaker as chairman added the support of his personal influence. We have never claimed that the compromise arrived at was an inspiring cry. No compromise is inspiring. But only those who remain ignorant of our English nature and the country's history can deny that the present Reform Bill, by introducing about 6,000,000 women to citizenship, marks a stride in advance as long as it was unexpected. Four years ago what would we not have given for such an advance? There has been no change either in the justice or the logic of our demand. But war has wrought a change in the feeling and passion of the people, and in this country it is not by abstract considerations of logic, or even of justice, that a cause is won. The concrete realisation of woman's capacity and public devotion—the sight of women working in munition factories, in the hospitals and fields and streets—these are the solid arguments which have appealed, not only to the country, but to such feeling and passion as the House of Commons possesses. We have that confession from our finest converts.

Opinion Abroad

So to many of our countrymen it seems only natural, as we said, to assume that the cause is won, the fight is over, and we may safely take our ease or turn to other contests. If that opinion prevails in England, even among the truest and most trusted supporters of the cause, much more is it likely to prevail abroad, where the complexities and obstacles of our legislative system are even less comprehended. Throughout the civilized world—in France, in Italy, in Spain, even in Hungary, as our message from Budapest proves, to say nothing of Scandinavia and free Russia—it is now generally believed that the decision of the House of Commons was conclusive, and that the right of women to the suffrage was finally established by that decision, never to be questioned again. We cannot doubt that this belief largely influenced President Wilson in his reported change of policy; since he is now expected to submit the suffrage question to Congress rather than wait for each separate State to adopt or reject it for itself. Just as our long and embittered struggle for right in this country inspired the conflict for right in America, so the American Government seems likely to follow the example of a British legislation which it believes to be final. All the Allies agree that they are maintaining the war in order to secure the democratic principle among mankind; and if the House of Commons, the acknowledged mouthpiece of democratic principle, ordains an admittedly democratic measure, what is now to hinder its realisation?

OurO bstacle Race

We believe, as we have always believed, that nothing can hinder its ultimate realisation, and that the time may now be very near—that the interval may possibly be measured by weeks. But those true supporters of our cause, whether at home or abroad, who suppose the battle over and the spoils of victory already secured, are, unhappily, mistaken. They ignore, or are ignorant of, those tedious complexities and obstacles which complicate or imperil the course of our legislation. It is through an obstacle-race that all English measures have to pass, unless, indeed, the course is cleared by panic. All suffragists, including ourselves, hoped, and many believed, that the Reform Bill would go complete to the Lords, and perhaps even receive the Royal assent in July. We now know that the Corn Production Bill has taken its place, and will be pushed through at all costs. It is not for us to discuss the merits of that Bill: we only notice that it limits the progress of the Reform Bill, before the rising of Parliament, to Clause 26 at the furthest. The reason officially given for the delay is that the Boundary Commissioners have not yet finished their report; but every politician knows that, for good or evil, the real reason lies elsewhere.

Again, most suffragists hoped, and many believed, that the Speaker's Conference Bill would be accepted by the House of Commons in block, even though the Government left Woman Suffrage and Proportional Representation to a free vote. Woman Suffrage was agreed to by the enormous majority we mentioned. But P.R. has been twice rejected, though the majorities against it were small. The Bill, therefore, will go to the Lords without the P.R. provisions, but Lord Curzon has assured the Lords that they will not, on that account, be prevented from re-inserting the clauses, and insisting upon considering, the Bill as the Speaker's Conference framed it. His words were:—

> This [i.e., the instruction to the Boundary Commissioners to arrange for single-member constituencies] did not mean that their lordships would not have a perfectly free hand to introduce Proportional Representation into the Bill in whatever form they pleased, and if they decided to take that step the Government would gladly render them any assistance in their power in drawing the Bill or framing the parts of the schedule affected.

That means that the Lords may very likely return the Reform Bill to the Commons with the old P.R. provisions re-inserted, or with new provisions devised. In any case, it means delay, perhaps many weeks of delay. And if in the end the Commons are persuaded to accept P.R. (perhaps on some bargain over woman suffrage), we suppose the Boundary Commissioners will have to begin their work again, and arrange for P.R. constituencies instead of single-member constituencies. Even if the present Parliament re-assembles early in October, at the very best the Bill cannot be passed before Christmas, and during these intervening months all Suffragists will be bound to watch and work as usual.

The Latest Peril

That is at the best; a possible worst lies yet behind. As we write, a threat—obviously an inspired threat—is hanging over the present Parliament. Unless the House of Commons agrees to pass the Corn Production Bill without serious opposition, it is threatened with immediate dissolution, to be followed by a general election on the old register as it stands. An election at this time appears to us a public danger. An election in which at least a quarter of the registered constituents could not vote, and the great majority of the people who are doing the work of the country would be absolutely excluded from representation, appears to us an iniquity in a country which professes to be fighting for the democratic principle. We hope the rumour may prove unfounded. We hope that the life of the present Parliament may be prolonged after November (the present limit) as heretofore, at all events until the Reform Bill is passed, and a fairly democratic register compiled. But as things stand, we cannot regard our victory as finally won, or the cause for watchfulness and effort over. Beside the constitutional obstacles which impede the progress of the Bill, as of all British legislation; beside the obvious political danger of the moment, and the risk of sudden crises such as almost invariably break the continuity of national life in time of war; we must, unhappily, reckon with sinister figures who, on an occasion such as this, flutter around the sources of authority, prompted by personal ambition, or by party enmity, or by sheer hatred of democratic power and its extension. In the midst of such open and hidden perils to our cause it is not for suffragists or democrats of any kind to pause, thinking the victory secure. All must show themselves "Jusquauboutistes"; all must resolve to continue unto the end.

Henry W. Nevinson.

GIVE THE MOTHER HER DUE

By Emmeline Pethick Lawrence

Judge Henry Neil, of Chicago, has come to this country to propound a scheme of Mothers' Pensions, which a few years ago would have been ignored or treated with contempt as the dream of a sentimentalist. To-day, the story that he is telling at meetings great and small all over the country is arousing extraordinary interest and the kind of enthusiasm which seeks to find expression in practical legislative reform.

Judge Neil's Story

The story of how Judge Neil became the champion of mothers who are responsible for their dependent and fatherless (or practically fatherless) children can be given briefly in his own words:—

> "Previous to 1911, in the several States, it was the law that widowed or deserted mothers who were too poor to provide for their own children had their children taken away from them by the Juvenile Courts and sent to institutions, which institutions were supported by general taxation. Tens of thousands of children were separated from their mothers in this way in the United States during the years from 1899 to 1911.
>
> "Early in January, 1911, I went into the Juvenile Court in Chicago, and saw the first case for the day tried under the Juvenile Court Law. It was that of a mother with five children: the mother was so weak physically that she could not stand, the children were clinging around her skirts. The testimony was that the father had died three years before; the mother, a good woman, had gone out washing for three years in an attempt to support her children; the excessive work had broken down her health; she was unable to earn more money; the landlord ordered her to move, and, having no place to go, she was ordered into court.
>
> "The Judge on the Bench said: 'Officer, what is the testimony in this case?' The probation officer said: 'This woman has no place to go with her children: she is unable to support them, and I think the children should be taken away from her and given to someone who can support them.' The mother's head dropped in a stupor, and I said: 'Judge, wouldn't it be kinder and more humane if you took the mother out and shot her before you take the children away from her for ever?'
>
> "That case woke me up. I went to the State Legislature of Illinois, told them the story of this woman, and asked them to enact a law by which a widowed mother, with no reasonable means of support, would be furnished with money to support her children out of the common county tax fund. The Legislature enacted that law without a dissenting vote, and since that time it has proven successful in the case of children and mothers in thirty States.
>
> "The pensioned mother is put on the county pay roll, the same as the county Judge or the janitor. She gets her cheque every month, and, if she proves unable to handle the money properly, her pension may be revoked. But we have very few cases of any abuse of the pension.
>
> "This is known as the Mothers' Pension System for abolishing child poverty. For six years I have been making, and am still continuing to make, a campaign to extend this Mothers' Pension System to every part of the world, and to expand its provisions so that it will abolish child poverty in the same way that free public schools have abolished illiteracy.
>
> "Strictly speaking, this is an economic scheme. We pay poor mothers pensions to save the taxpayers' pockets. The authorities were empowered to take away children from mothers who could not find the money for rent and food, and place them together in large institutions. These institutions were very costly. In New York City three and a half millions of the ratepayers' money was expended in one year on the care of twenty thousand children. It occurred to me, when I discovered this state of things six years ago, that a saving might be effected by granting the poor mothers pensions and seeing they looked after the children themselves; and so it has proved.
>
> "Practically three-quarters of such children are now looked after at home, and the cost is just about one-third what it was.
>
> "The scheme has had wonderful effects in the checking of juvenile crime. There are districts in which this was virtually stamped out after six months' trial of the pensions system."

Acknowledgment of the Mother

The actual economy secured to the ratepayer and the reduction of juvenile crime are excellent arguments for the scheme. But the outstanding fact, from the point of view of the Woman's Movement, is that the service to the community rendered by the mother as the organiser of the home is, by the administration of this system, publicly acknowledged and honourably recompensed. It must be clearly understood that the Mothers' Pension system is not merely an expansion of the system of "out-relief," as administered by some of our more progressive Boards of Guardians. The distinguishing feature about the American Scheme is that the adequate sum apportioned to the mother for the maintenance of her family carries with it no suggestion of charity and no stigma of pauperism. She is recognised as a servant of the State. She receives her monthly cheque from the same source and by the same method as that by which a Warden of a State Institution or a Judge of a State Court receives his stipend. She is responsible to the State in precisely the same way. Motherhood takes its due place as a social ministry to the whole community, and becomes by implication an honourable part of public life. And this reacts throughout the community in a readjustment on more dignified lines of the position of women in the body politic.

Badness Due to Poverty

Judge Neil believes in the mother; and all the stories about the inefficiency and the bad management of the poor mother do not shake his faith. With direct simplicity he points out that if blood were extracted from the veins of an exhausted Marathon runner it would be found to contain poison, which for the time would completely vitiate the mental and physical powers of the fatigued athlete. Just in the same way the bodies of overworked mothers are poisoned by the exhausting conditions of their lives; and so long as these continue it is impossible to expect from them mental or moral energy. Speaking broadly, Judge Neil believes that the badness of a poor mother is due to her poverty, and the way to get over her badness is to alter the conditions imposed by her poverty.

Mr. Bernard Shaw, in a recent article in the Press, points out that when the experiment in the States was only half a success Judge Neil said "give the mother twice as much money," which being done, the experiment became wholly successful.

I commend this scheme of Mothers' Pensions as a practical proposition to the readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN. This is the pyschological moment for securing reform on these lines. For this statement I give three good reasons.

What the War has Done

First, the war itself has brought home to the minds of even the most conservative a new realisation of the value of "Man-power" and "Woman-power" in the country. One of the results of this new appreciation is the intense desire to save the children. The child points back to the mother. Hence we have a new appreciation of the mother and of her importance to the community. The public mind with regard to the whole question is ripe for reform of a drastic and "audacious" kind.

In the second place, the inauguration of the system of pensions for soldiers' and sailors' wives and children has got rid of the main difficulty in regard to the scheme. That difficulty is the complete separation from the Poor Law of the help to be given to mothers. It is the first step that costs. And the first step was taken when the wives of soldiers or sailors went to the post-office, and not to the Relieving Officer, to draw their pensions. All that is now necessary is that the principle applied to wives and widows of soldiers shall be extended to all mothers in the country who support dependent and fatherless (or practically fatherless) children.

Women's New Power

The third reason why this scheme is immediately practical is the fact that at the next General Election we expect to have six millions of women voting for the first time. This means that enormous power is now in the hands of the women of the country. The married woman and the mother will be represented in Parliament. There is no doubt that, should the women of the country demand such a recognition of the services of motherhood as is given by the Mothers' Pension Scheme, they could get it without delay. I hope that a scheme for securing pensions to mothers, not less generous than the American scheme, will be adopted as part of the programme of the woman electors.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM BUDAPEST

The following interesting communication, from Miss Paula Pogany of the Budapest Woman Suffrage Society, has been kindly sent to us for publication by Miss Sheepshanks, Hon. Secretary of the International Woman Suffrage Society:—

"Though unfortunately still divided by the fearful combat in which our sons are destroying each other, we hope this expression of congratulation will reach you through the kindness of our neutral colleagues. We wish to congratulate you on the introduction of the Parliamentary Bill extending the franchise to you, women of Great Britain, who have been working more than the women of any other country in Europe for the rights of women. We trust that we, too, will soon be able to conquer our rights. Humanity never needed women's full strength more than to-day, when we face the greatest task:—the reconstruction of our poor destroyed world. We congratulate you most heartily on the achievement, which will allow you to devote your entire strength to the upbuilding of a new, securer world—a world in which we, too, hope to do our part, armed with our political rights."

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

27, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. 2. Telephone, Holborn 5880

Colours: Purple, White and Orange

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SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The offices of the U.S. and of VOTES FOR WOMEN will close on Thursday, August 2, at 1 p.m., and will reopen on Monday, August 20, at 10 a.m.

Correspondence will be dealt with during this period, and if any political situation arises demanding the resumption of Suffrage activities, the offices will, of course, be opened at once.

Those who wish to order copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN while the offices are closed, and cannot do so through the post, can obtain them on application to the porter at the front of the building.

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	£40	8	7

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Miss Newcomb ...	0	5	0
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U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

92, Borough Road, S.E.
Secretary: Miss V. Aitken. Tel.: Hop 4172

The annual outing took place on Saturday, July 21, consisting of a trip by river to Hampton Court, with a light lunch on board and a substantial tea on arrival; the return journey being by train—a trip suggested by the members themselves, and one which, the weather being magnificent, was a great success. Many members have already enjoyed a week's holiday at the seaside, and others are looking forward to theirs in August, all of which relaxations have been made possible to them by the kindness of those friends who have contributed to the Holiday Fund, and to whom we tender hearty thanks.

The weekly Club concerts have been most successful during the month, as have also the meetings, and we would specially thank Miss Margaret Hodge (who spoke on Russia), Miss E. Picton-Turbervill (on the Y.W.C.A. War Work), and others for their interesting lectures.

The Club will be closed for the month of August, from July 28 to September 3.

BOLTON U.S.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Miss S. W. Holden, 110, Tottington Road, Harwood, Bolton-le-Moors

The monthly meeting was held on July 9. It was decided to co-operate again with other local organisations for a second conference in Bolton, when it is proposed to hold an afternoon and evening session to discuss "Women in Industry." Mr. Wm. Addison was appointed delegate to the forthcoming Manchester Conference convened by the Workers' and Soldiers' Council.

Meeting.—Monday, August 13.—Open Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Corporation Chambers, Bolton.

KENSINGTON U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Postlethwaite, 47a, Earl's Court Road, W. 8. Telephone: 926 Western

Papers sell well in this neighbourhood, but it is to be regretted that more sellers are not available. Newsagents might be induced to take copies if they were canvassed; one shop in Church Street disposes of twelve numbers a month.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Holden for her gift of jumble sale garments. The shop will be closed during August.

LETCHWORTH U.S.

Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruth Pym, 2, Meadow Way Green

There have been no meetings of the Society itself for the last two months, but the members have co-operated with other societies in various ways. At the end of June a joint meeting, organised by the local Vigilance Association, was held, and Miss March spoke on the work and on the facts which led up to the introduction in Parliament of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. Susbequently, at a joint committee meeting with other women's societies, a resolution was passed protesting against the inclusion of clause 3 in its present form.

The U.S. has also co-operated in the formation of a Local Representative Committee, which will consist of delegates from the various local Women's Societies, and will make it its business to promote the election of suitable women on local bodies. The Committee is non-political.

It is hoped to hold a meeting of the Society some time in September.

CORRESPONDENCE

Equality of Punishment

To the Editor of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Madam,—Out of consideration for your restricted space I compressed my former letter as much as possible; apparently I compressed it too much, and rendered my meaning rather obscure to your correspondent, F. K. Powell, and possibly to some other readers as well. I should therefore be greatly obliged if I might explain myself a trifle more fully and plainly.

Certainly it is unfair that the female prostitute should be punished by the law whilst her male companion goes free. But nothing could demonstrate the essential futility of such punishment more conclusively than the fact that she remains cheerfully impenitent under it. Why should we waste more public money and time over extending a futile system to the other sex, solely in order that a few short-sighted people might be able to say: "Now they have both been fined thirty shillings, so everything possible has been done to uphold the ideal of perfect chastity"? It is true that certain primitive tribes have put down irregular intercourse by the simple method of making it a capital offence for both parties. The women of these communities, it should be remembered, are parcelled out from birth as somebody's property; and the tribal elders, realising that disputes over such property, usually terminating in a free fight, did not make for the strength or prosperity of the tribe, adopted this drastic alternative as the lesser of two evils. But primitive peoples, as a rule, marry at puberty—they do *not* condemn their young men to a life of either celibacy or furtive dissipation until they are capable of standing the enormous financial strain of married life in modern civilised communities—which means, in the majority of cases, postponement of marriage until the late twenties or early thirties. And most young men are badly in need of feminine companionship long before they reach that age—a very human and natural desire—yet they cannot afford to marry, and perhaps they have not yet seen the young woman to whom they would care to bind themselves so irrevocably that the bond could only be dissolved by a public scandal and subsequent social ruin. On the other hand, there are hundreds of attractive young women, of a naturally sociable disposition, who must choose between a life of monotonous and underpaid drudgery, the doubtful chance of still more monotonous drudgery as the wife of a struggling clerk or artisan, and—a third alternative. Meanwhile, the authorities, knowing perfectly well that the popular ideals of sheltered and innocent elderly citizens simply won't work, and that, to put it bluntly, prostitution is not the only temptation, nor the worst temptation, to which colonies of segregated young people are subject, satisfy the popular sense of righteousness by a little desultory harrying of the more helpless class of unfortunates, and otherwise let matters slide and make no attempt to tackle the root causes of the mischief.

That is the problem. If F. K. Powell thinks she can solve it at one stroke by blowing a police whistle I am afraid we must agree to differ.

Yours, &c.,
T. O'MEARA.

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COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES	HEAVY SENTENCES
"One Law for the Rich and——"	**"Another for the Poor"**
The *Times* (July 18) reports case of an Army officer, charged at the Central Criminal Court before the Recorder with bigamy. There were previous convictions against him, since when his conduct had been satisfactory. He had enlisted at the beginning of the war and been given a commission. Sentence: *One day's imprisonment.*	The *Times* (February 15) reports case of a soldier's wife, charged at the Central Criminal Court before the Common Serjeant with bigamy and obtaining separation allowance on false pretences. The defence was that she thought her husband dead. Her husband pleaded for her, saying "she was always a good little woman." Sentence: *Six months' imprisonment.*
Not "An Eye for an Eye"	**But "A Tooth for a Tooth"**
Thomson's Weekly News (May 12) reports case of a sailor, charged before the Newcastle magistrates with unlawfully wounding a woman by striking her in the eye with broken glass. The eye afterwards had to be removed. Sentence: *Four months' imprisonment.*	The *Daily News* (April 25) reports case of a sergeant in the Engineers, charged at the Old Bailey with stealing the false teeth of a clergyman. Sentence: *Three years' penal servitude.*
Assault on a Girl of Seven	**Attempted Burglary**
The *Western Evening Herald* (July 12) reports case of a labourer, charged at Plympton before Messrs. S. Hammick and W. H. Crews with assaulting a little girl aged seven. Medical and other evidence testified to the seriousness of the offence. It was stated that he was not quite right in his head, was often seen with children, and was popular in the neighbourhood. Sentence: *Three months' imprisonment.*	The *Times* (July 12) reports case of a man charged at the Guildhall with attempting to commit a burglary in Houndsditch. He was 80 years of age, and had a criminal record dating back to the year 1885. Sentence: *Twelve months' imprisonment.*

Owing to lack of space we have been obliged to omit from our last two issues our table of punishments, showing the inequality of some of the sentences given in our Courts for crimes against the person and for crimes against property. The comparisons shown above illustrate rather more forcibly than usual how much more importance is attached in this country to the value of property than to the value of the human person; and in our first comparison the fact that there is one law for the rich (or at all events, for those who have a good social position) and another and heavier one for the poor, is emphasised in addition.

Officer and Soldier's Wife

The two cases are curiously analogous. Both Army officer and soldier's wife were tried for the same offence in the same Court, though not before the same Judge. Here, however, the analogy ceases, for while the officer is given a nominal sentence of one day's imprisonment, the soldier's wife has to go to prison for six months. The explanation that the latter offender coupled with her offence of bigamy that of drawing separation allowance falsely does not justify the longer sentence, even allowing for the greater importance generally attached to theft than to moral offences. For against that may be set the fact that the officer's previous record was a bad one, until he enlisted, whereas the woman's, on the testimony of the husband she had deceived, was good. And if it is urged that the man was needed for the service of his country, we can equally urge that this also was true of the woman. After the ecstasies of Baby Week it cannot be pretended that the woman in the home is rendering a smaller service to the nation than the man in the field. We are forced to the conclusion that in these two cases the disparity in the sentences passed is due mainly to the difference in rank between the two offenders, and only secondarily to the committal of theft in the woman's case.

Extenuating Circumstances

There is some danger that the plea of service in the field may be used in the future to condone crimes of the more serious kind, committed at home. Believing, as we do, that our penal system is wrong from top to bottom and that extenuating circumstances, *of whatever kind*, should always be taken into consideration both by judge and jury, we do not object on that score to the fact that the sailor (in our second comparison) received a light sentence for blinding a woman in one eye. But if the defence that he had been through the Dardanelles campaign and had been wounded in France is held to be a good one, we should like to feel sure that every chance to set up a defence, perhaps equally based on his previous career was also given to the man who stole a set of false teeth. It does not seem to us that his crime was enhanced by the fact of their belonging to a clergyman (unless there is anything in Ecclesiastical Law to that effect!). Even if he had nothing to advance in extenuation, except the plea (probably a true one) that he had never been given a chance to earn an honest living, we hold that this should be weighed as carefully in his favour as if he *had* been given a chance, like the other man, to show gallantry and self-sacrifice in the field. In any case, from whatever point of view we regard the two sentences in question, it is quite indefensible that the punishment for stealing what can be easily replaced should be nine times as severe as that for inflicting a bodily injury that can never be compensated at all.

Two Victims of Our System

The third comparison in our table of punishments presents us with a grim commentary on the defects of our present standard of values. On the one hand we have a little girl of seven terribly, perhaps irreparably, injured, both physically and morally, by a man who, according to the evidence of a police constable, should not be held responsible for his actions. This man, however, will be free again at the end of three months to prey upon little girls of seven; for no one with any knowledge of our prison system could imagine that he is likely to emerge from his detention in any way cured of his mental and moral deficiencies.

On the other hand, we have an old man of 80—at the age when, in happier circumstances, he would not be held responsible for anything wrong or foolish or eccentric that he chose to do—sent to prison for twelve months, we might say for life, for in his case it is scarcely likely that he will ever come out at all. We can barely trust ourselves to comment on the inhumanity of such a sentence, given for merely *attempting* to steal some one's property. It is not likely that at such an age he should be successful in the attempt, and we cannot say that we wonder at his making it when we know that the alternative for old men and women of 80 is to starve slowly to death on seven-and-sixpence a week. Still less can we wonder that at 80 burglary should seem to him a means of earning a living. The police court allegation of "a previous career of crime" generally means that as a boy the wretched man in the dock was given some savage sentence for a small offence, which started him on that career. Only a few weeks ago a boy of 16 was sentenced to two months' hard labour by Mr. Hay Halkett at Greenwich for embezzlement. Will he, too, be in the dock at 80? If the public cared as much for the big human things of life as it cares for the protection of its worldly goods, neither that little girl of seven nor that old man of 80 would be victims of our social system at this moment.

BOUND OVER

We are very glad to see that Mr. Joseph King, M.P., drew the attention of the Home Secretary, in the House of Commons on June 25, to the case of a clergyman who was bound over at Stratford Police Court on June 20 for attempting to procure two boys in contravention of Section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. It is scandalous that offences against children of either sex should be regarded in this light way in any of our Courts. We hope that Members of Parliament will use their powers to direct the Home Secretary's attention to some of the very many similar cases to which we give publicity in these columns, the great majority of which are instances of offences against children and young girls, the consequences of which are lifelong.

PRIVILEGED POLICE

A disquieting fact came to light in the course of the inquiry into a charge of attempted suicide, brought against a girl of 16 at the Birkenhead Quarter Sessions. According to the *Manchester Guardian* report, Inspector Eakins informed the Recorder that "the girl's allegations that her downfall rested with members of the Liverpool police force were quite true, and the officers concerned had been severely dealt with by the Head Constable."

We should like to ask why members of the police force enjoy this immunity from the ordinary penalties of the law. The charge against them, admitted in the Court, is one of the most serious that could be brought against any man or set of men. Then why were they "dealt with by the Head Constable" instead of being made to stand in the dock beside the unfortunate girl, little more than a child, whom they had driven to the verge of suicide? Presumably because they are sheltered by their policeman's uniform. And this brings us to another point. Are these men still in the police force? No one knows better than we do how many excellent men there are in the police force, of which those mentioned in the Birkenhead case are certainly not typical. But if these particular constables are still in the force, we consider they constitute a grave danger to the women with whom their office may bring them into contact. And if they have been expelled, why, as we have already asked, were they not dealt with in the open Court like any other offenders against the law?

SARAH GAMPS OF TO-DAY

One of the most interesting of the Conferences held during Baby Week was that on the position of the trained midwife, who has to-day taken the place of the Sarah Gamp of yesterday. As one of the speakers said, welfare work and all that it means is very important in its way, "but you've got to have the baby born first." And Dr. Champneys (President of the Central Midwives' Board) endorsed this by insisting that the trained midwife must be an integral part of any scheme for saving infant life. "It is no more possible," he said, "to win an ante-natal campaign without the midwife than to win a military campaign without infantry."

Her Economic Position

All the speakers commented on the wretched economic position of the trained midwife. It was stated that about three-quarters of the births among the poor were now attended by midwives, a number that is likely to be increased rather than lessened after the war because of a probable shortage of doctors and a probable rise in the birth-rate. But the best women, declared Dr. Elizabeth Macrory (inspector of midwives to the L.C.C.) are not likely to be attracted to the profession by the present low rate of recompense; and she suggested an increase of the maternity benefit and some form of State subsidy in order to guarantee them an adequate fee for each case. Dr. Hope (M.O.H. for Liverpool) also accentuated the importance of raising and recognizing the status of the midwife, and thought that the State should guarantee her at least a guinea a case, the patient paying whenever able to do so.

Some Important Points

A very important point was made by Dr. Janet Lane-Claypon (Dean of the Household and Social Science Department, University of London), who thought that ante-natal work should be done only by the midwife, and that every mother should be ensured a trained midwife, whether attended by a doctor or not. Most of those who spoke seemed to be against the municipal midwife as such, urging the very great importance of allowing the mother a free choice from among trained midwives carrying on a private practice. The whole tone of the debate was essentially human and sympathetic, even when conducted by those in an official position. Dr. George Reid (M.O.H. for Staffordshire) was applauded when he estimated that some 2,000 more trained women were needed at once for the profession in England and Wales; and so was Miss Gregory, head of the Mothers' and Babies' Home at Woolwich, who warmly recommended the employment of midwives in preference to the "throw-the-baby-at-the-mother-and-get-on-with-the-next-case" method, which must necessarily obtain in large out-patient departments of hospitals.

WOMEN POLICE

A Conference on the work of the women police was held in July at the National Welfare and Economy Exhibition, in the new County Hall, London. Mr. Cecil Chapman, who presided, said that from the small experience so far gained of women police they seemed to meet a need which had been crying for recognition for a great many years. This opinion was endorsed by Mr. Pardo, an old Bow Street police officer, who testified to the excellent services of women in police work. Miss Damer Dawson said that there were now 560 uniformed policewomen working in official posts in this country. An indirect testimoney to their value was also conveyed by Mr. C. J. Stewart, the Public Trustee, who said that in dealing with a staff of 500 women and girls he had learnt the importance of employing women to deal with women.

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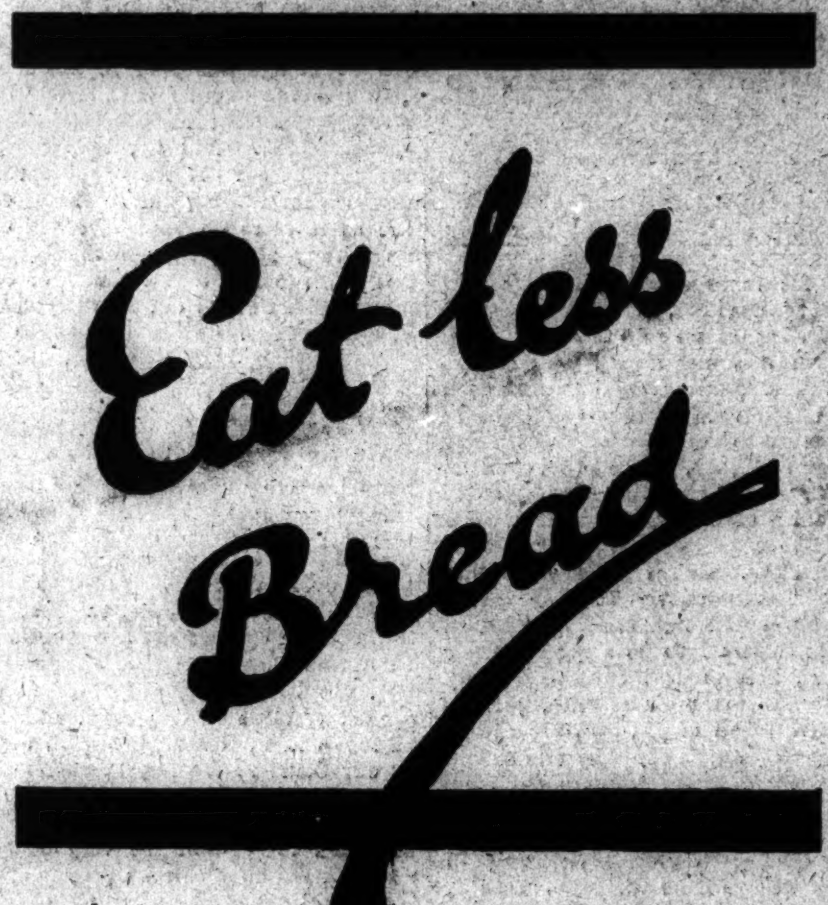

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